MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 14 and 15, 1927.

The ninth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1927 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Thursday, April 14, and Friday, April 15, 1927.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Greenleaf,
Mr. Mowbray,
Mr. Delano,
Mr. Taft,
Mr. Garfield,
Mr. Morris,
also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the Meeting held March 16, 1927, were approved, with an amendment to page 4, paragraph 5, Garnet-Patterson School, as follows: Strike out paragraph 2, and insert,--

> The design was approved with the suggestion that the cornice line be reduced, and in the central motif suppressing it entirely and simply carrying through a band course about the same width as the cornice.

2. HISTORICAL MARKERS FOR THE STATE OF VIRGINIA: The Commission took under consideration a letter dated January 21, 1927, received from Mr. E. G. Fippin, Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the Virginia State Conservation and Development Commission, Richmond, as follows:

> "You will perhaps recall my visit to your office on Saturday, January 15th, with reference to suitable materials and designs of historic markers. This Commission has taken up the whole problem of adequately marking the important historic points in Virginia, from Colonial and Revolutionary times, down to the present, including events in the lives of persons that should be recorded. You will recognize that this is a very large project, involving hundreds, or even thousands, of markers.

"We have employed Dr. H. J. Eckenrode, an experienced historian, to handle the historical side in looking up subjects and the text for the markers, and making locations. The markers will be informational rather than monumental. We are seeking all available sources of information as to the best material of which to construct these markers, in order that they may be reasonably durable, and it is also especially important that they be readily legible to persons passing in automobiles on the highway. We are also looking for suggestions as to designs, so that the markers can be classified according to the importance of the subject. Such classification, expressed in the type or design of the markers, will indicate to the passer-by whether the subject is one of major or of less importance. We are also considering the question as to the size of letter and the position of the marker on the road, whether facing the road or at right angles to the road, in which latter case it should probably be read from both directions.

"In other words, we should like to get just as many suggestions and as much help on this problem as your Commission, from its extensive study, will be able to give us. We believe that bronze is quite unsuited to our purpose because of both its cost and the low visibility of its text."

Mr. Moore stated that he had written Mr. Fippin and had informed him that in selecting Dr. Eckenrode there would be no question as to his historical competency.

The Commission felt that the project proposed called for someone to make studies suggesting types of markers, which the Virginia State Commission wished to erect, as there would be involved the question of location on buildings, at cross roads, etc., and material and lettering for the markers. Mr. Morris said a good sign would be one of cypress wood with incised lettering, and using enamel paint on the sign. Professor Fiske Kimball was suggested as designer, but as he resides in Philadelphia, it was thought he would not have the time nor be sufficiently near to give the project required attention. Mr. Norris suggested Prof. Alfred Lawrence Kocher, head of the Department of Architecture, University of Virginia, at Charlottesville.

Mr. Moore suggested Mr. Edward W. Donn, architect, of this city. Mr. Moore said that Mr. Donn is the consulting architect for Kenmore and for the Wakefield

Memorial Association, which is planning to develop the birthplace of George Washington for the Bicentennial in 1932, and that he is an authority on colonial architecture; also that Mr. Donn is so situated as to have time at his disposal for such work as would be called for in connection with these markers. The Commission concurred in the suggestion of Mr. Moore that Mr. Donn be recommended for this work; with Prof. Kocher as second choice in the event Mr. Donn could not undertake the work. (Exhibit A) See also A-1.

3. SIGNS AND BILLBOARDS, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: The secretary read the following letter, dated March 1, 1927, which was received from Mr. Arthur B. Heaton, architect, of this city, protesting against the sign and billboard nuisance in the National Capital;

"There has been of late considerable discussion regarding the carrying out of the great L'Enfant Plan and the beautification of Washington. I certainly hope that it will end in a realization of that plan. We should do all in our power to make the Nation's Capital what it should be - - the most beautiful in the world.

Along this line of thought, one important feature should be considered; the fact that our streets are being very much spoiled by the great number and unsightly character of signs and billboards which are being used in increasing numbers every day. For example, a number of our monumental bank buildings are marred by these hideous electric signs, which counteract the architectural merit which the owners spent many dollars to produce when building.

If there be no law by which this evil can be corrected, can we not through education of some sort get started and possibly do some good along this line? The Fifth Avenue Association of NewYork City has done much good to improve that great thoroughfare and I think it is high time we get busy here. I enclose some photographs of:

1. An example of what should not be done to help the look of our City, or should not have to be done to help the bank.

2. An example of two stores - one on left shows how a sign can be made to look architecturally correct and yet a good advertisement for the building because of the fact that one cannot help but read the whole sign if he looks in that direction - and

On the right, and next door, shows what should not be done to help the looks of our streets, and does no good because, when there are too many signs, those looking that way fail to observe any of them - it takes too long.

I enclose also a copy of an editorial in the February number of "The Architect" which expresses my views as I have tried to impress them on my clients, and as I have intended many times to bring before the Art Societies for some concerted action."

The secretary stated that upon receiving this letter he talked with Captain H. C. Whitehurst, Executive Officer of the Zoning Commission, who said that the Commissioners of the District of Columbia were having under consideration the question of changing the regulations pertaining to signs and billboards in the District of Columbia, with a view to restricting them and refusing the re-erection of billboards where permits expire.

Mr. Moore said that he had asked the Commissioners of the District of Columbia concerning the regulations and had asked whether in their opinion additional legislation was necessary, to which Commissioner Dougherty had replied by quoting the existing laws pertaining to Billboards and Signs in the District of Columbia and saying that in his opinion the Commissioners had sufficient authority in the matter (Exhibit B). Mr. Moore said in his opinion no further legislation was necessary to control this matter.

Mr. Greenleaf said that the American Society of Landscape Architects is on record as protesting against the Billboard and Sign nuisance. He thought the publicity given the matter in protesting against this nuisance by organizations has done much to check the spreading of it, and that similar publicity in the newspapers will do more to suppress it than specific legislation. Mr. Greenleaf cited several instances where [redacted] objectionable billboards had been removed by large corporations where they heard of criticism about them, which they felt would injure business of these concerns. Mr. Greenleaf said that signs and billboards should be restricted to commercial districts, so as to protect the landscape or natural scenery and to keep them from residential sections. The Commission concurred in this.

4. DESIGN FOR THE NEW M STREET BRIDGE, GEORGETOWN: Mr. David L. McComb, District Engineer [redacted] of Bridges, submitted in behalf of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, a design for the new M Street Bridge, authorized by the Act of Congress, approved July 3, 1926 (Public No.487, 69th Congress), as follows:

> "BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVESOF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That in order to provide sufficient clearance for the proposed park drive in the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, and to enable traffic to use M Street northwest, between Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Streets, the Commissioners of the District of Columbia be, and they are hereby, authorized and directed to construct a new steel-girder bridge to replace the bridge in the line of M Street over Rock Creek, which bridge shall have a roadway forty feet wide and two footways each nine feet wide, and shall include proper facilities for carrying and supporting water main and other underground construction: PROVIDED, That the Commission of Fine Arts shall be consulted as to the architectural design of the proposed bridge and its approaches.
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> "Sec. 2. That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, payable in like manner as other appropriations for the expenses of the District of Columbia, the sum of $250,000, and the said commissioners are authorized to expend therefrom such sum or sums as may be necessary for personal services, engineering, and incidental expenses."

The Commission considered the design with Mr. McComb. Mr. McComb said there is need for this bridge, even though it is so close to Pennsylvania Ave., for traffic purposes and because it is a main fire run. The bridge was considered in connection with the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway project, with which the bridge is to be properly related. The bridge is to have concrete facing with steel girders, and is to cost $250,000, but possibly more than half of this, Mr. McComb said, will be needed for readjustment of water mains, sewers and similar construction. In accordance with the Act, the bridge is to have a width of about 60 feet.

The architect members of the Commission made a number of suggestions to Mr. McComb as to the cantilever arrangement in relation to the piers. Mr. Moore raised the question as to whether or not Peck Chapel in the locality would be

removed to make way for the Rock Creek Parkway, saying he was under the impression this would be necessary to carry it through. Mr. McComb said he understood the chapel would not have to be removed to carry out the Parkway Plan.

The architect members of the Commission felt that the design gave promise of a good bridge and approved it generally, but requested that detailed drawings of the bridge be submitted and that in the meantime also related questions as they affect the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway be taken up with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The Commission desire a good bridge which will be in keeping with the type established for the Parkway by the 14 Street Bridge. (Exhibit C).

5. GARNET-PATTERSON SCHOOL: The secretary stated that Mr. A. H. Harris, Municipal Architect, had intended to place before the Commission a complete lay-out of the Garnet-Patterson School, but that absence from the city prevented his doing so at this meeting.

6. HOUDON BUST: Mr. Moore stated that the Department of State had asked if the Commission of Fine Arts would inspect a "Houdon Bust" belonging to Mrs. Serena Hale Davenport (widow of Admiral Davenport), 2152 Florida Ave., N.W., and that she had written the following letter on the subject: April 5,1927.

> "I have just learned that the Fine Arts Commission has the charge of the selection of a bust of Washington for the Pan American building, for which Congress has made an appropriation of $1,000 and that the Secretary of State gave into their hands the seeing of the one that I have in order to decide whether to take it or have a replica made of the one at Mt. Vernon of which mine is a replica.
>
> It would give me a great deal of pleasure to show you mine and also the note from Lady Napier, wife of the then English Minister presenting it to my late husband's mother as a token of her friendship for Mrs. Davenport on their leaving this country for England.
>
> Should you care to see it, if you would let me know when it would be convenient for you to call, I would arrange to be in to show it to you."

The Commission discussed the subject, and called attention to the letter they had sent to the Secretary of State on December 8, 1926, with regard to it, and in which Washington's reference to Houdon, as recorded in his Diaries, were quoted. Mr. Taft read from his book on The History of American Sculpture, saying as to his statements regarding Houdon's original models of George Washington that they were taken from a French authority. Mr. Taft said he could not understand how Houdon would leave the original cast or mould at Mount Vernon,--to put the clay mould in plaster destroys the clay. Mr. Taft then called attention to several other features in connection with the process of making a bust. The Commission concluded that very probably Houdon made several casts. Mr. Moore said that there is reason to believe that Clark Mills made a bust of the Mount Vernon cast, that there is a good copy of it in the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and that there is no doubt that the cast of Washington at Mount Vernon is the original.

The Commission thought that the Department of State should get authority from the Regents of Mount Vernon to make a copy of the original Houdon cast there. Mr. Taft said the work should be done at Mount Vernon.

No action was taken as to inspecting the Houdon bust at the home of Mrs. Davenport and at the Corcoran Gallery of Art.

7. NAVY AND MARINE MEMORIAL: The secretary stated that since the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on March 16th and the report made to the Navy and Marine Memorial Association on March 28th, a reply was received from the Association, dated April 2, 1927 (Exhibit C) stating that they were under the impression that the model had been approved but that they would make the necessary arrangements for an inspection of the model by the Commission today; that a letter had just been received from the Navy and Marine Memorial Association in further explanation of their project. The secretary read the letter, as follows:

"NAVY AND MARINE MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION
12 West 8th Street, New York, N.Y.

April 12, 1927

National Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

In view of the impass caused by a letter of March 26, 1927, from the Chairman of the National Commission of Fine Arts to the Navy and Marine Memorial Association and its interpretation and publication by newspapers, which has caused great damage to the movement and not little humiliation to the many members of this National Association, the following statements are respectfully presented in the hope that they will prove beyond doubt the spirt in which the members of this Associationhave given and are giving their time, efforts and money for the success of this national movement for the erection of our first Sea Memorial, the Navy and Marine Memorial.

That letter refers to two distinct points, first, inscriptions upon the monument; second, approval as to design and location.

INSCRIPTIONS: The matter of inscriptions is covered and settled by a letter of March 3, 1927, from Admiral Fiske, Chairman of the Navy and Marine Memorial Association to Mr. Moore, Chairman of the National Commission of Fine Arts containing the following statement: 'I wish to assure you, in the name of this Association, that no names of donors will appear on the Memorial.'

APPROVAL:

1. In 1922 and 1923 the design of the wave and gulls appeared and with it the first suggestion or idea of a National Navy and Marine Memorial. The papers spoke widely of it.

2. The design received the praise of Mr. Daniel Chester French, Ex-Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts and dean of American Sculptors, and other prominent persons.

3. Officials of the Navy and the Merchant Marine became deeply interested, and formed a committee to consider a movement for the Navy and Marine Memorial. Among the first interested were Mr. Denby, Secretary of the Navy, Colonel Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Farley, Chairman of tne Shipping Board, Admiral Benson, Admiral Palmer, and others.

4. Their first thought was to secure the good will and advice of the Chairman of the National Commission of Fine Arts. At their suggestion, the design was shown to the Chairman of the Commission and to others, and advice

was asked how to present the plan to Congress.

5. Application to Congress for the granting of land was drawn under the courteious direction of the Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts in Washington, December 10, 1923. The good will and cooperation of the Chairman were expressed in his letter of December 17, 1923.

6. Each member of the Congressional Committee on the Library was furnished with data and photographs of the design, at the request of Representative Robert L. Bacon.

7. Senator Pepper presented the project to the Senate, while RepresentativesBacon, Luce and Longworth took care of the presentation of the project to the House. The Bill was passed and signed by the President.

8. It was at the express request of the Memorial Association to Representative Bacon that the Joint Resolution incorporated the condition of the approval of the National Commission of Fine Arts. The application drawn up at the office of the Commission included this provision.

9. Thereafter, the Association turned again to the Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts for instructions and directions as to the proper way of proceeding with the movement. A method of procedure was kindly outlined by the Chairman concerning the raising of funds, the site and the adaptability of the design, in his letter to the Association of January 22, 1924. At that time, it was the mutual understanding between the Commission of Fine Arts and this Association that the proposed site was Hain's Point.

10. This Association, naturally, from the very start of the movement, has presented to the public the design of the wave and gulls, which created and carried the idea of the Navy and Marine Memorial. This, perhaps, is the only memorial movement where the public has known all the time to what design they were contributing their money. In most of the memorial movements, the design of the monument is the last thing that the public comes to know.

11. Since the fall of 1923, the Association has submitted very many scale sketches and models, small and large, and has spent a very great amount of the public's money to meet the criticism of some members of the Commission, and if possible to obtain a final approval, enabling us to proceed uninterruptedly with our work. One of the models submitted was made nearly half the size then contemplated, in order to satisfy the doubt in the Commission's mind as to the possiblity of enlarging the model and at the same time, preserving its artistic value. This enlargement was kept on exhibition fully two months in Mr. French's studio at 12 West 8th Street, New York City. There it was inspected at various times by individual members of the Commission of Fine Arts.

12. Finally, on January 19, 1926, the Commission of Fine Arts communicated to the Memorial Association its decision against the use of Hain's Point, suggested a new site for this Memorial and marked an accompanying map, at a point on East Potomac Park at the entrance of the proposed Canal.

13. The Memorial Association accepted the site and the suggestions, as embodied in said letter of January 19, 1926, by its reply of February 1,1926.

14. On February 2, 1926, a meeting was held in Washington with the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Moore, the architect, Mr. Corbett, the sculptor, Mr.Piatta, and Admiral Fiske, Chairman of the Board of the Memorial Association, at which final arrangements were made. The Memorial Association was then referred to the Department of Public Buildings and Public Parks, and modifications and simplifications were agreed upon.

15. Consent to publish this decision in Washington papers was cordially

given by Mr. Moore to Admiral Fiske at that conference. The Washington Post and the Washington Star of February 3d and succeeding days reported this decision. The Washington Star of February 3d also directly quoted Mr. Moore as follows:--"The site finally determined upon, is on the South roadway of East Potomac Park in the vicinity of the field house of the golf course

16. The Memorial Association turned as per instructions to the Department of Public Buildings and Public Parks, and received full consideration and cooperation from said department.

In view of the above there could not be the 'fundamental misunderstanding' referred to in the letter of March 28, 1927, from the National Commission of Fine Arts to the Navy and Marine Memorial Association; and we felt justified in proceeding with the work. It was not until March 30, 1927, when the disconcerting letter of Mr. Moore of March 28, 1927, was received that the Association knew that there was any misunderstanding in the matter.

With high regard,

Respectfully,

For THE NAVY AND MARINE MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION,
Bradley A. Fiske,
Rear Admiral, U. S. N. (Retired),
Chairman.

The secretary also read the following newspaper clipping from the New York World of April 9, 1927:

"NO HITCH ON NAVY SHAFT
Admiral Fiske Denies Plans for Memorial
Were Disapproved.

Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske, retired, speaking about plans for a naval and marine memorial to be erected in Washington at the the cost of $500,000 by the Navy and Marine Memorial Association, said yesterday that reports published about the existence of a 'hitch in the program' in that the Fine Arts Commission of Washington had notified him of its disapproval of the plans were not exactly stating the facts.

'The Fine Arts Commission,' said the Admiral, 'has for the present neither approved or disapproved of our proposed plans, for the simple reason that our plans have not as yet been submitted to it. We will not submit them until April 14. We have worked with the Fine Arts Commission right along and feel confident of its approval.'

Harvey Wiley Corbett, architect of the monument, expressed himself along the same lines and added that reports of the disapproval of his plans were entirely unwarranted."

Thereupon the secretary stated that it was known to the members of the Commission of Fine Arts that the letter of March 28th above referred to was sent with the full endorsement of the Commission, and that some of the statements made in the Association's letter of April 12th quoted above, required verification.

The Chairman said that he had on several occasions been questioned

regarding the model, but that he had not committed himself in any such way as was indicated in this letter of April 12th, and had followed the Commission in the matter.

The Commission inspected the model at three o'clock in the afternoon at the Navy Building. All the members of the Commission were present and also Admiral Fiske, Chairman of the Navy and Marine Memorial Association, Mr. Corbett, their architect, and Mr. Piatta, sculptor of the memorial.

The model submitted was a 1/6 scale model in plaster showing the sea gulls. Mr. Piatta said the model had been reduced fully 43% from the original size; that according to the present design the wave would not be more than 12 feet high and the birds 2½ feet high, with the spread of their wings reduced from 10-8-6 to 6-5-3½ feet. He said he had omitted the dolphins and some of the cartouches shown in former models.

Mr. Taft said he liked the conception of the birds hovering over the wave, but that in reducing the size of the model Mr. Piatta had reduced the thing to the baroque; that Mr. Piatta should give the whole model more silhouette and think less of ornamentation. Mr. Taft pointed out to Mr. Piatta changes he would make in the model, as did also several of the other members of the Commission. Attention was called to changes that should be made in the wave, changing or even omitting certain cartouches shown on the model, and reducing the moulding at the base of the model, which should be so designed as to join less interruptedly with the pedestal. Mr. Corbett and Mr. Piatta said they would make these desired changes in the model, and give it further study, with a view to having the model meet with the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts.

Further consideration was given the model by the Commission on the morning of April 15th, at which Mr. Taft submitted the following statement giving his criticism of the model for consideration with the Commission:

> "The Fine Arts Commission approves the proposed reduction of the monument approximately to 60% of its original size.
>
> The Commission appreciates the skill which has translated the wave into a charmingly decorative, flowering design, but feels that the design has become too involved; the wave-motif is lost in baroque detail. A greater simplicty is recommended, in both contour and content. This may be attained through:
>
> (1) Subordination of the large cartouches which now divide the silhouette almost equally with the wave; flattening and lowering these features by one half, with corresponding gain in the length of the wave outline, would be a great improvement.
>
> (2) Elimination of several of the smaller masses within the throat of the wave, permitting of smoother transitions; in other words emphasis upon the wave motif rather than upon its parts.
>
> (3) An oblique position for the lower sea-gull, rather than its head-on projection from the mass of the wave.
>
> (4) Lowering of the small cartouche at the extreme front of the composition is desired by some members of the Commission.
>
> When these changes have been made in the present model the Commission will be glad to inspect it again (Washington or New York?)

Mr. Greenleaf said this Navy and Marine Memorial monument is extensively discussed/

quite outside of the Commission of Fine Arts and he would suggest, if a report is to be sent to the Navy and Marine Memorial Association, going less into details, leaving the problem of completing the model to be further studied by the architect and the sculptor, in accordance with criticisms made yesterday.

Mr. Morris made some inquiries as to action taken with reference to the model prior to his appointment as a member of the Commission, and his attention was called to the Tenth Report of the Commission, in which a report to the Navy and Marine Memorial Association was published, to the effect that a site for a monument showing the sea gulls was disapproved for Hains Point, but that if the Association wished to adhere to this type of design, the Commission would consider the monument on a reduced scale for a site along the river bank of East Potomac Park.

Thereupon, Admiral Fiske appeared before the Commission, saying it was his desire to make a statement and consult with the Commission in regard to the Navy and Marine Memorial Association

Admiral Fiske said that, as the/had written to the Commission on April 2d, they were much disturbed about the letter of March 28th from the Commission, but that he realized they had without doubt proceeded rather hastily in the development of their project. He assured the Commission that it was the desire of the Navy and Marine Memorial Association to cooperate with the Commission of Fine Arts in every way, and that they had intended to do nothing in the matter of their design beyond what would meet with the approval of the Commission.

Mr. Taft said that he felt one of the great troubles was in the matter of promising to inscribe the names of donors of "$100 or more each" on the Memorial; that circulars had come to the attention of the Commission to this effect. Admiral Fiske admitted that this was a mistake on their part, which should not be permitted; but that money so contributed, by about 700, would be refunded if so desired by the donors. However, Admiral Fiske said, some of these "$100 contributors" gave with the intention of having the name of a relative or friend lost at sea commemorated on the memorial and he felt such a contribution could properly be accepted. The Commission stated that this was a different proposition and such names could be allowed.

Admiral Fiske said he did not think 1% of the 700 "$100 contributors" would want their money refunded. Among such contributors, he said, is Vincent Astor, who gave with the understanding that his name would not appear on the memorial, and that there are many others.

Admiral Fiske assured the Commission that the monument would not be executed until this 1/6 scale model had been approved by the Commission of Fine Arts; that work on the full-size model in New York, which had been begun, would be stopped. He asked if the Commission would send him a simple statement to the effect that the Navy and Marine Memorial Association had submitted the model, that it was inspected by the Commission and that, while changes were to be made in the model, the work was proceeding along lines satisfactory to the Commission. Admiral Fiske was informed by the Chairman that the Commission had been considering the model and had about agreed to send him a statement such as he would regard favorable.

Admiral Fiske thereupon considered with the Commission various matters in relation to the memorial, concerning which he desired the advice of the Commission; among them the following:

1. If names of donors could not appear on the memorial, would there be any objection to placing the names in a box, the same as is done in the case of a corner stone of a building?

The Commission stated that there would be no objection on their part to this, it being understood that the corner stone containing the box would be marked simply with a brief legend.

2. If someone offered a gift for the memorial in memory of one of their deceased relatives or friends of the United States Navy, should his name be commemorated on the memorial; that is, someone who did not die at sea?

The Commission said No, as this would lead the Association to an endless list, as for example such names as Smith's or Jones's.

3. What does the Commission think of issuing a memorial book on the Navy and Marine Memorial, giving a history of the memorial and the names of all contributors?

The Commission replied that such a book would doubtless be appreciated by the contributors; that it was a matter for the Association to act on and one in which the Commission were not concerned.

Mr. Moore called the attention of Admiral Fiske to the First Division Memorial, south of the State, War and Navy Building, on which there are 7,000 names commemorating soldiers of the First Division, each one of whom made the supreme sacrifice, yet not one of the names is in sight; he also called attention to the Spanish-American War Memorial Book in the Arlington Mansion, in a case that has not been opened for years.

In response to Admiral Fiske's inquiry as to how he might take up this matter of refunding contributions to donors, the Commission suggested that he could say simply the Commission of Fine Arts disapproved placing the names of donors on the Monument, in which the Navy and Marine Memorial Association agrees. Admiral Fiske said he had not taken action in the matter of these contributions, pending the outcome of this meeting of the Commission; that it was his desire to plan now for a final drive for funds, with the understanding that no money would be paid in until the entire sum needed for the monument had been subscribed.

Thereupon Admiral Fiske withdrew from the meeting, expressing his great appreciation of the opportunity given to consider the model with the Commission and discuss the project.

Mr. Delano drafted a reply, which with slight modifications, was approved by the Commission, and sent to the Navy and Marine Memorial Association. (Exhibit E) See also Exhibits E-1 and E-2.

8. AMERICAN CEMETERY IN BROOKWOOD, ENGLAND: The Commission considered a letter received from Mr. Egerton Swartwout, Architect, of New York City, dated January 20, 1927, transmitted by the American Battle Monuments Commission by letter of March 15, 1927, which the secretary brought to the attention of the Commission at the meeting on March 16th. In the meantime the matter had been brought to the particular attention of Mr. Greenleaf, as it had special reference to the landscape treatment of Brookwood and the location of the flagpole there. Mr. Greenleaf submitted his views and recommendations on the subject. The Commission discussed the project thoroughly at the meeting. The conclusions reached and recommendations of the Commission, which included those of Mr. Greenleaf, were embodied in a report to the American Battle Monuments Commission (Exhibit F).

9. BATHING POOLS, near McKinley Manual Training High School: In behalf of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, Major J. C. McHaffey resubmitted plans for the Bathing Pools to be erected near the McKinley Manual Training High School, at Second and T Streets, N.E., showing changes that had been recommended by the Commission at the meeting on March 16th.

The Commission inspected the plans and approved them generally. The Commission suggested some modification in material for the roof, as tile, so as to avoid a flat roof, which would be monotonous as seen from the High School. The Commission also recommended placing the small pool at right angles to the large one, if there is sufficient ground space to do this.

10. ALBERT GALLATIN STATUE: By Act approved January 11, 1927, (Public Resolution No.50, 69th Congress), Congress authorized the erection of a statue of Albert Gallatin in the Treasury Department grounds, as follows:

"RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That authority is hereby granted to any association organized within two years from the date of the approval of this resolution for that purpose, to erect a statue of Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury from May 14, 1801, to February 9, 1814, opposite the north entrance to the Treasury Building in the city of Washington within the grounds occupied by such building, or at such other place within such grounds as may be designated by the Fine Arts Commission, subject to the approval of the Joint Committee on the Library, the model of the statue so to be erected and the pedestal thereof to be first approved by the said Commission and by the Joint Committee on the Library, the same to be presented by such association to the people of the United States.

Sec. 2. That for the preparation of the site and the erection of a pedestal upon which to place the said statue, under the direction of the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, the sum of $10,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated."

Mr. Moore said that Hon. Perry Belmont had been instrumental in securing the necessary legislation for this statue and that he had selected Mr. James L. Fraser as the sculptor of the statue, who now desired to know just where it is to be located,--that Mr. Fraser preferred the west pediment of the Treasury Department building, but persons interested in the statue prefer that the statue be located at the north front of the building.

The Commission called attention to the conflict with the fountain on the north side of the Treasury Department building that would arise if the statue were located there; also that there has been a question of raising the sunken "plaza" some time to the level of Pennsylvania Avenue. The west pediment seemed to be the better location for the statue of the two, but the Commission took no definite action in the matter.

11. WHITE HOUSE RESTORATION: The Commission accompanied Lieut. Col. Grant, Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, to the White House to see the repair work and alterations which are being made on the third floor and roof of the Mansion. The third floor and roof are being made

fire-proof, and rooms are being constructed on the third floor where formerly was an attic. Much interest has been manifested in the work since the old roof has been on the building since it was rebuilt in 1814. The changes will not alter the appearance of the White House, because of the balustrade which tops the outer walls. The Commission were satisfied that the work was being properly carried out. Hon. Louis Cramton, House of Representatives, and Mr. Cass Gilbert, Architect, of New York City, and former member of the Commission of Fine Arts, were also present.

12. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE: In accordance with arrangements made with the Harbor Police, the Commission made a trip of inspection in their boat, with Lieut. Col. Grant and Mr. Cass Gilbert, to observe the construction work on the Arlington Memorial Bridge from the river. The Commission were much impressed with the progress which is being made in the construction of the bridge. It was noted that several of the piers were projecting out of the water. The lay-out of stone and other material on both sides of the river indicated that the construction work was being done on a large scale. Col. Grant said it is planned to complete the bridge in five years.

After inspecting the bridge work, the Commission made a trip around Columbia Island--comprising about 200 acres of reclaimed land from the river. Mr. Greenleaf deplored the high banks of the island, in contrast with the low shore line along the river, which preserves beautiful scenery. Col. Grant called attention to the comparatively low embankment of East Potomac Park, along the river front, but said this is flooded at various times of the year.

13. WATER STREET TRACT FOR PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD: Under date of April 1, 1927, the following letter was received from the Treasury Department, requesting the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts with reference to the proposed transfer

of a triangular tract of land, along Water Street, to the Pennsylvania R.R.:

> "I inclose herewith photostatic copy of blueprint showing a small triangular tract of property, C.103 acres in area, located along Water Street, this city, which is sought to be acquired by The Pennsylvania Railroad for additional trackage, and which is marked "X".
>
> Will you kindly favor the Department with your views with respect to this matter and wheter there is any objection to the passage of legislation authorizing the transfer of this small parcel of land on account of any future contemplated developments which the Fine Arts Commission may have in prospect?"

The matter was taken up with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, whose Executive Officer, Lieut. Col. Grant, reported favorably on the project, subject to certain conditions. A reply was sent to the Treasury Department, requesting a study of the project in relation to Water Street and Potomac Park entrances, by railroad officials with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, such design to be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for further consideration. (Exhibit G) See also C-1.

14. INTERNAL REVENUE BUILDING: By letter dated April 15, 1927, Hon. Ogden L. Mills, Acting Secretary of the Treasury, submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts, plans for the new Internal Revenue building, as follows:

> "There are forwarded to you, by messenger, four sheets of the sketches showing the proposed new building for the Bureau of Internal Revenue, this city, on which this Department would be pleased to have the comment and advice of the Commission."

Mr. Louis Simon, of the Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, was present to discuss the plans with the Commission. The building, he said, was designed for a site between 10th and 12th Streets, along B Street North, near the National Museum; to be of the same height as that building and classical in character. Mr. Simon also brought to the attention of the Commission a plan prepared by his office for buildings proposed for erection along B Street North and along Fifteenth Street, south of Pennsylvania Avenue. These were inspected. The Commission took the plans under consideration.

15. TREATMENT OF THE TRIANGLE, SOUTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE: Mr. Moore stated

that he had sent to the Secretary of the Treasury, in behalf of the Commission, the letter (Exhibit H) prepared with their approval, which involves a considerable change in the grouping of buildings for the triangle from the plan prepared by Mr. Edward H. Bennett, Consulting Architect to the Secretary of the Treasury, since it contemplates giving the Triangle a treatment similar to the Louvre in Paris, with colonnades, open courts, and arched driveways, and an extended facade for units of a very large building rather than many individual buildings; and that before action could be taken on the plans for the Internal Revenue Building it was necessary for the Commission to know what action the Secretary of the Treasury would take on this letter. Mr. Moore said that he happened to be in the Office of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Dewey at the time when this letter was brought before him and when Mr. Ayres was present, both of whom were favorable to the project; that in fact Mr. Ayres had expressed himself strongly in favor of the proposed new plan for the Triangle in connection with plans he is preparing for the new Department of Commerce Building south of Pennsylvania Avenue along 15th Street, with a plaza at Pennsylvania Avenue and 15th Street.

The secretary stated that the Treasury Department officials had advised him that this matter would be brought to the attention of Secretary Mellon as soon as he returned from Europe.

16. NEW POLICE COURT BUILDING: A letter dated April 1, 1927, was received from Hon. Louis C. Cramton, House of Representatives, suggesting that the Commission of Fine Arts consider a site for additional Police Court quarters, east of the present Police Court Building, at 6th and D Streets, N.W., instead of erecting a building in Judiciary Square which would take up park area, as follows:

> "With reference to construction of new buildings for the Police and Municipal Courts, the Recorder of Deeds, etc.:
>
> You are familiar with the attitude of the Deficiency sub-committee with reference to the plans proposed before our committee recently for

a new building for the Police Court on Judiciary Square. At that time our committee was strongly opposed to those plans for the reason that there appeared to be no opportunity to provide facilities to take care of any increase in the personnel of the Court in the near future.

I have given the matter some consideration since adjournment of Congress and have gone over the premises, and I am, personally, now unalterably opposed to putting any additional building on Judiciary Square. The space there is more valuable for park purposes, supplied with large and attractive trees, etc., as it is, and should not be further encroached upon by buildings. It seems to me that the Commission ought to give consideration this summer to the working out of a proper program to cover these matters. I will be glad if you will consider this point of view in connection therewith.

I would also be glad if you would consider in connection therewith the possibility of acquiring the land adjacent to the present Police Court Building on the east so that an addition to the Police Court Building might be constructed there, taking up the whole of the frontage of that block, and making any necessary changes in the existing building. It not being necessary to put up any monumental structure and the addition conforming generally to the appearance of the existing Police Court Building, it would seem to me that all the needed facilities could be secured at a lower price, including the cost of the land, than would be the cost of any monumental structure in Judiciary Square.

Thanking you for your consideration in this connection, I am,

Yours sincerely,

Louis C. Cramton.

The Commission regarded the project a desirable one, as they had never favored taking up park area for a building, and that in this instance it would be a beginning to improve the squares adjacent to Judiciary Square. The Commission decided to give the matter very careful consideration.

17. THE MALL AND THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT GARDENS: Mr. Charles W. Eliot 2d, City Planner for the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, appeared before the Commission in behalf of Lieut. Col. Grant, Executive Officer, to consider with the Commission the plan to develop the Mall, particularly as to crossing 12th and 14th Streets, by bridges connecting with the Mall roads; and beginning a study of the Washington Monument Gardens (Exhibit I). The Commission stated that to carry out the 1901 Plan for the Washington Monument

Gardens was a great and important project in itself, and that it would bring up problems in connection with the Mall Development and the Public Buildings program; so that a study of it at this time was desirable. As for the Mall itself the Commission informed Mr. Eliot that they had for years hoped that a real improvement in the Mall be made by carrying a roadway through from the Capitol to the Washington Monument, and that they would prefer that to a cut through the Mall at the intersection of 12th and 14th Street, with bridges overhead. Mr. Moore said the Park Commission of 1901 regarded the Mall as a Park and Parkway, with people and vehicles crossing it as an interesting feature. The Commission decided to give this matter very careful consideration.

18. MERIDIAN HILL PARK: Mr. Moore advised that since the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on March 16th further consideration had been given to the question of improving the Lower Garden of Meridian Hill Park, and that he had secured from Lieut. Col. Grant a statement giving estimates for necessary construction work, as follows:

March 23, 1927

"

Replying to your letter of March 21st, relative to Meridian Hill Park, the estimated cost of the wall along W Street is about $41,000. This estimate is based upon the plan for a wall averaging about five feet three inches in height, with a solid parapet. If the average height is reduced by following generally one of the plans suggested by Mr. Peaslee at the meeting on March 16th, the cost would be of course somewhat less.

The Item for Meridian Hill Park in the District of Columbia Appropriation Act for the fiscal year 1928 is as follows: 'Not exceeding $95,000 for the improvement of Meridian Hill Park, including continuation of construction of the wall and main entrance on Sixteenth Street, the wall on Fifteenth Street, and commencement of Construction of the wall on W Street, from Fifteenth Street to Sixteenth Street, together with entrances to the park, and grading, all in accordance with plans to be approved by the Fine Arts Commission'. In view of the wording of this item, it appears that I have no option in the matter, but must follow the program of construction as laid down. The estimated cost of the walls, subject to revision when the detailed

plans are prepared, is as follows:

Completion of 16th Street Wall	$16,000
Completion of 15th Street Wall	21,000
W Street Wall	41,000
Entrances at 15th and W and 16th and W Sts.	30,000
Main Entrance, 16th Street	85,000

A small amount of money (not to exceed $10,000) is available from the appropriation for this fiscal year, and it is my present intention to expend the greater part of this in the purchase of planting material for the lower portion of the park. This apparently is in accord with Mr. Greenleaf's desires.

With reference to the Buchanan Memorial, Mr. Riggs has told us that he is holding up its construction only until he can be assured that it will have the proper surroundings. It seems to me that with assurance that the walls will be completed in the near future and that a considerable amount of planting will be done, he should be willing to let his work go ahead. I can think of nothing that would make more of a show in the park, or that would offer a stronger argument for the early completion of the entire project."

Attention was called in particular to the proposed Sixteenth Street entrance to the Grand Terrace. Mr. Moore read the following letter received from Mr. Platt, who regards that entrance unnecessary; as do also Mr. Kendall and Mr. Vitale:

April 6, 1927.

"Replying to yours of April 5th, I believe it will be without damage to the plan of Meridian Hill Park if you omit the entrance as planned at the end of the terrace. I have just been into Vitale's office and have looked at the plans. I did not find on any of them that this entrance had been brought to a point to show where you would arrive on the terrace. I believe that access to the terrace at this place would be detrimental to it rather than an advantage. I think you have quite enough entrances to the park without this one."

The Commission made an inspection of Meridian Hill Park and particularly the site proposed for the entrance at the Grand Terrace. In view of the fact that there are now two entrances from Sixteenth Street to the Upper Garden and the fact that there are two entrances planned from Sixteenth Street to the Lower Garden, and in consideration also of Mr. Platt's, Mr. Kendall's, and Mr. Vitale's endorsements, the Commission decided unanimously that an entrance from Sixteenth Street to the Grand Terrace is unnecessary.

The Commission considered further various features of the Lower Garden and said part of the funds saved by omitting the Grand Terrace entrance should be used for grading and planting. It is understood that sufficient funds are available for completing the remaining wall construction around the Lower Garden.

The Commission also said the Buchanan Memorial should be placed in the park as soon as the grades are fixed. As to the W Street wall, between Fifteenth and Sixteenth Street, the Commission felt that the wall should be so constructed as to save the sycamore trees along that street. (Exhibit J)

19. THE SHEPHERD PARKWAY: The National Capital Park and Planning Commission, by letter of April 6, 1927, requested the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts as to the purchase of part of a tract of land to be known as the Shepherd Parkway, south of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, in Anacostia, as follows:

> "The advice of the Commission of Fine Arts is requested as to the purchase of Parcel 244/16, containing approximately 30.652 acres, and Parcel 243/23, containing approximately 11.324 acres.
>
> These parcels constitute a part of the Shepherd Parkway overlooking the Potomac River, from St. Elizabeth's Hospital southward to and including Fort Greble. The land is nearly all forested and presents a fine view of the Potomac River and the Virginia landscape beyond."

Mr. Charles W. Eliot 2d, City Planner for the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, submitted a map showing the parkway, which It was noted that the parkway would be joined to the proposed Fort Drive, which is to encircle the District of Columbia. The Commission endorsed the project and approved the purchase of the land in question as part of the National Capital Park System (Exhibit K).

20. PAINTING THE CAPITOL: The Commission were in conference with Mr. David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol, as to painting the Capitol Building, particularly the central portion. Mr. Lynn called attention to the difference in the

tones of gray of the Rotunda (a lead gray) and that of the Senate and House wings, which have a brownish gray appearance. Mr. Howorth advised painting the Rotunda so as to give it the same color as the Senate and House wings. The Commission concurred in the recommendation.

21. UNION STATION PLAZA: The Commission were in conference with Mr. David Lynn, Architect of the Capitol, with regard to the development of Union Station Plaza. Mr. Lynn stated that the land for the plaza has been bought by the Government and that Mr. Wm. E. Parsons, Architect, of Chicago, has been appointed by him as consulting architect in the development of the plan for enlarging the Capitol Grounds, which includes Union Station Plaza. Mr. Lynn showed from a drawing, which has been made with the advice of Mr. Parsons, how it is proposed to join the Capitol Grounds and the Union Station Plaza with Union Square and the Mall. He said that provision has been made for moving the Botanic Gardens south of Maryland Avenue to occupy several squares at the southwest corner of the Capitol Grounds, to which the Bartholdi Fountain will also be removed. A direct line of communication is to be made from Union Station to Pennsylvania Avenue. He said also that as soon as Congress reconvenes he hopes to secure the necessary funds for erecting the new House Office Annex south of the Capitol.

22. TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER: The Commission made a trip of inspection to the Arlington National Cemetery to see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, with a view to a further consideration of the project to complete the Tomb, for a reply to the Quartermaster General's letter of January 6, 1927, regarding a proposed program of competition, specified in the Act of Congress authorizing the completion of the Tomb, and which the Commission had taken under consideration at the meeting on February 17th. Further action in the matter was deferred

until the next meeting of the Commission.

23. ROBERT LINCOLN MEMORIAL: Mr. Moore stated that Mrs. Robert Lincoln has selected Mr. James E. Fraser as designer of the monument to Robert her deceased husband, Lincoln, in the Arlington National Cemetery, for the siteespecially selected on the south slope of Arlington National Cemetery. The Commission inspected the site, which is not far from the Sheridan Gate.

24. GREATER ARLINGTON PLAN AND VIRGINIA TERMINUS OF THE ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE: The Commission inspected the area to be included in comprising 350 acres (the present area of Arlington comprises 408 acres) Arlington, now occupied by the Agricultural Experimental Farm, in connection with the Virginia terminus of the Arlington Memorial Bridge. Attention was called to a number of important features in connection with this development, as the point of the great entrance to the Arlington National Cemetery when the bridge is finished, the Mount Vernon Boulevard and the Lee Highways, the Virginia Shore Parkway, which is to extend along the river bank north to Rosslyn and ultimately to Great Falls, the treatment of the railroad now extending along the river shore to Rosslyn; also the approach to the Arlington Mansion was considered and that to the Amphitheater. Large quantities of stone for the Arlington Memorial Bridge were observed along the Virginia shore.

25. NATIONAL ARBORETUM: The Commission made a trip of inspection to Mt. Hamilton, in Northeast Washington, the site of the proposed National Arboretum authorized by Congress at the close of the 69th Congress (Public No.799, approved March 4, 1927)Exhibit L. The area comprises 367 acres, with a further 433 acres that can be made available in the valley of the Anacostia. The secretary stated that Congress has further declared its intention to establish a National Arboretum by the adoption of the modified plan for the Anacostia Park (Senate Document No.37, 68th Congress), which, in paragraph 16, National Arboretum and Botanic Gardens, reads as follows

> "For many years past the Department of Agriculture has been deeply interested in the establishment in or near the city of Washington of a national arboretum and botanical garden adequate to the needs of the country, and in particular adequate to the requirements of the Agricultural Department, as an adjunct to its important work of plant breeding and plant introduction. The present Secretary of Agriculture

as well as previous Secretaries, has transmitted to the board requests that certain areas in Anacostia Park, above Benning Road and near the District of Columbia boundary, be set aside for an aquatic garden, which is to be one of the attractive features of the proposed botanic garden. About 130 acres of marsh lands can be set aside for such a garden. No extra expenditures by the District of Columbia need be made for purchasing land, as this area lies below the high-water shore line and is claimed by the United States, and it is understood that the cost of the development would be borne by the Agricultural Department. The board agrees to such a proposal, as it will not only reduce the cost of the park project but also save the District of Columbia future park maintenance charges."

In accordance with this Plan, Congress has made the following appropriation for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1927 (District of Columbia Appropriation Act, Public No.686, 69th Congress, Approved March 2, 1927, page 36), as follows:

ANACOSTIA RIVER AND FLATS

"For continuing the reclamation and development of Anacostia Park, in accordance with the revised plan as set forth in Senate Document Numbered 57, Sixty-eighth Congress, first session, $217,500, of which amount $125,000 shall be available for expenditure below Benning Bridge, and not more than $92,500 shall be available immediately for the purchase of necessary land above Benning Bridge: PROVIDED, That the purchase price of any site or sites acquired hereunder shall not exceed the full value assessment last made before purchase thereof plus 25 per centum of such assessed value."

The Commission were gratified with the progress made in the acquirement of this Arboretum site, being regarded one of the very desirable national institutions in the interests of plant life for the National Capital. The Commission noted that some streets with row houses have been constructed south of the Mount Hamilton tract, but that the Mount Hamilton tract itself is still intact for development as an Arboretum. It is understood that the necessary appropriation to acquire Mount Hamilton will be made at the forthcoming session of Congress.

On Thursday, April 14th, the Commission gave a luncheon at the Cosmos Club in honor of Sir Edwin Lutyens, architect of the new British Embassy to be built in Washington, and Hon.R. J. Allison, of the British Directorate of Public Works, London. The guests included Hon. Louis C. Cramton, House of Representatives, Mr. Cass Gilbert, Architect, New York City; Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Carl T. Schuneman, Mr. Louis Simon, Office of the Supervising Architect, Treasury Department, The Assistant Secretary of State Wilbur J.Carr, Mr. Frederic A. Delano, President American Civic Association, Mr. Andrew O'Connor, Sculptor, Mr. Ira Bennett, Editor, Washington Post, Mr. Frederick L. Brooke, Architect, Washington, Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Director, Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital, and Major Brehon Somervell, United States District Engineer.

COPY

April 1c, 1927.

Dear Mr. Fippin:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on April 1[illegible], 1927, gave consideration to the plan of the Virginia State Conservation and Development Commission to erect historical markers.

The Commission recommend that, under the authority of your Commission, designs as to types of markers for buildings, cross-roads, etc., be prepared to be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for further consideration of this project. The Commission suggest that for this work you obtain the services of Mr. Edward W. Donn, Architect, 1920 K Street, N.W., of this city, who is an authority on colonial architecture.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. W. C. Fippin,
Executive Secretary and Treasurer,
State Conservation and Development Commission,
Richmond, Virginia.

EXHIBIT A.

COPY

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE CONSERVATION
AND
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
RICHMOND

April 24, 1937.

Mr. Charles Moore, Chairman,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department,
Washington, D.C.

Subject: Historical Markers.

Dear Sir:

I thank you for your letter of April 16th relating to designs and materials for historical markers. We have given a great deal of study to this matter and have worked up designs in both metal and stone, which we are now having executed, and in a few days we will have about a dozen markers in this design made up and set up on the road for inspection.

Thus far our best results have been secured either with a tablet of aluminum alloy that is both tough and durable, and, on the other hand, light gray granite with a deep letter cut with a sand blast. We are using the general type of Gothic letter worked out by the Highway Commission, the letters being two inches high with a quarter inch stroke for the text, and nearly square in design; and a three inch letter with a half inch stroke for the headline.

This same general type of letter is carried through all of the various designs.

The metal markers will be in two colors, the letters being black on the face and the background a light color.

We thank you for your attention to this matter, and if our studies of this matter are of any value to your organization, we will be glad to make them available.

Very sincerely yours,

E. O. Pippin.

EXHIBIT A.-/

E.D. 211221

BD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOR L. DOUGHERTY
PRESIDENT
J. FRANKLIN BELL
COL., CORPS OF ENGINEERS
U. S. ARMY
IDNEY P. TALIAFERRO

COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DANIEL E. GARGES
SECRETARY

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
APR 1 1927
NOTED

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

WASHINGTON

April 9, 1927.

My dear Mr. Moore:

Your letter of March 22, asking to be advised of the authority of the Commissioners in the matter of the control of signs and billboards, and asking whether further legislation is necessary to protect the city from menace, was duly received and has been under consideration.

The laws governing the matter are quoted below:

"No person shall place, exhibit, maintain, or continue any advertisement or poster except upon such land, houses, buildings, billboards, fences, or other structures as the Commissioners of the District of Columbia may, in their discretion, authorize in writing for that purpose. The said written authority shall only be granted in resident streets upon application made in writing and signed by a majority of the residents on the side of the square in which said display is to be made and also the side of the confronting square; Provided, That nothing in this paragraph shall apply to persons who advertise a business, exhibition, or entertainment on the premises where the same is conducted, nor to signs relating to the sale, rent or lease of lands when the sign or advertisement is on the land referred to in the said sign or advertisement., etc."
(Act of Congress, approved July 1, 1902).

"That hereafter no sign or advertisement relating to sale, rent or lease of land or premises shall be located on the sidewalk or parking of any street, avenue, or road in the District of Columbia. One painted or printed sign or advertisement for the sale, rent or lease of lands or premises may, with the written consent of the owner or legal representative of the owner, be placed, by any one of not exceeding three real estate agents, on any lot, piece or parcel of land abutting on a street, avenue or road in said District, or attached to the exterior of any building fronting thereon. The Commissioners of the District of Columbia are authorized to use the police authority vested in them, to require the removal of any sign or advertisement in violation of this provision, and to institute prosecution, in the Police Court of the District of Columbia, against persons violating the provisions hereof, and every such person, upon conviction of such violation, shall be fined in the sum of not less than $5. nor more than $25."
(Act of Congress, approved March 4, 1913).

The Commissioners desire to reduce the number of bill boards and since 1909 it has been their policy to prohibit an increase in the area of billboard occupation. The matter of further regulating the subject is now under consideration. It is not believed that any further legislation by Congress is necessary at this time.

Very truly yours,

President,
Board of Commissioners of the
District of Columbia.

Mr. Charles Moore,
Chairman, The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

COPY

April 16, 1927.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts the enclosed design for a bridge across L Street. The design comes from the office of the Engineer of Bridges, District of Columbia, and has had no architectural treatment. This bridge should be considered from the standpoint not only of utility but also of park design. The Commission of Fine Arts believe that the width of the bridge is a matter of city planning, which should have the consideration of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission; also that the design should be considered by your Architects or by the Municipal Architect. This Commission is not so much concerned with the machinery of consideration as it is with the object to be attained, namely to make a bridge that will stand with the M Street Bridge.

The Commission would say that the bridges now being constructed in the valley of Rock Creek and the changes made in the bridge at the Basin in Potomac Park have never been submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts. Perhaps we might have made some suggestions that would have helped the appearance of these bridges.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant, 3d,
Executive and Disbursing Officer,
National Capital Park and Planning Commission,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT C.

[illegible]

[illegible] MARINE MEMORIAL
[illegible] West 44th St. New York

April 2, 1927.

Charles Moore, Esq., Chairman,
National Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

Esteemed Sir:

Your letter of March 26th addressed to Admiral Fiske, Chairman of the Board of this Association, copy of which you sent to Honorable Mr. Wilbur, Secretary of the Navy, in which you stated that the design of the Memorial had not met with the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts, was presented at the meeting of the Executive Committee of this Association held yesterday afternoon.

Needless to say, the members of that Committee were very much surprised at the statements made in your letter, as they were firmly convinced that all the requirements of the Commission of Fine Arts had been complied with and all matters in connection therewith settled in our correspondence of January 19th and February 1st, 1926, and at the meeting held in Washington February 2d of the same year at which Admiral Fiske, Mr. Pirtle, the Sculptor, Mr. Corbett, the Architect, and yourself were present.

It is not the purpose of this letter to set forth in detail why the Executive Committee proceeded with such assurance, but merely to state that the Association will be represented at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts to be held April 14, 1927, as per telephone conversation between your office and this office.

Will you be so kind as to let us know the exact time and place of this meeting and how it will be best for the members of the Commission to see the model which we wish to send to Washington.

Sincerely yours,

[illegible]. Pellowes Morgan, Jr.,

Chairman, Executive Committee.

EXHIBIT D.

COPY

April 16, 1927.

Dear Admiral Fiske:

At their meeting on April 14, 1927, the Commission of Fine Arts examined the revised model, at a scale of one-sixth of execution, of the Navy and Marine Memorial, submitted by you. The Commission give their consent to the erection of the memorial designed by Messrs. Platt and Corbett, in general accordance with the above model in East Potomac Park, near the junction of the cross water-way and the Potomac River, as shown on the plan of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital approved March 1, 1916. In giving this consent, however, it is understood that the names of donors are not to be displayed on any part of the monument. Also it is understood that before execution the model, incorporating the changes verbally agreed upon by the architect, sculptor and the Commission of Fine Arts at the meeting, is to be submitted for further consideration by the Commission.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske (Retired), Chairman,
Navy and Marine Memorial Association,
12 West 8th Street,
New York, N.Y.

EXHIBIT E.

COPY

[illegible] MEMORIAL
15 West [illegible] St., New York.

April 18, 1927.

Charles Moore, Esq.,
Chairman, National Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Moore,

We thank you very much for your letter of April 14, 1927, which reached us this morning.

We are much gratified to receive the Commission's consent to the erection of the Navy and Marine Memorial, in general accordance with the model shown to the Commission on April 14, 1927, the location to be in East Potomac Park at the spot specified in your letter.

It is understood that the names of Donors are not to be displayed on any part of the monument; and it is also understood that before execution, the model, incorporating the changes orally agreed upon at the meeting of April 14th, is to be resubmitted for further consideration by the Commission.

We thank the Commission for the broad and thoughtful consideration which it has given to this project; and on behalf of Mr. Piatt, Mr. Corbett and myself, I wish to thank the members individually, for the perfect courtesy they have accorded us, notably on April 14th and 18th.

With high esteem for the Commission as a whole, and for its members individually, I am,

Ever sincerely yours,

Bradley A. Fiske,

Rear Admiral, U. S. N. (Retired),

Chairman.

EXHIBIT E.-1

COPY

My dear Mr. Moore:

Your letter of April 1st to the Chairman of the Navy and Marine Memorial Association, Admiral Fiske, has been read to me. I feel I must express to you my gratification and gratitude.

During the last three years I have had present in my mind your short note of December 17, 1923, and on those few words I have staked all my faith and work.

When this Memorial is erected I am sure you will appreciate more than ever that it was worth all our efforts. The design deviates from the conventional, but to my mind it is as sound and sane as nature herself. So have thought Daniel C. French, the late Henry Bacon, Harvey W. Corbett and many other prominent artists; and with them twenty five thousand grown up people and two million young students.

I will have the modifications suggested at the last meeting ready for inspection within a few days. I will then submit the model to the members of the Commission, either here or in Washington as you shall direct.

With kindest regards,

Ever sincerely yours,

Begni del Piatta.

New York, April 19, 1927.

EXHIBIT E.-2

COPY

April 30, 1937.

Dear Major Price:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on April 1 and 2, 1937, considered the suggestions of Mr. Egerton Swartwout as to the treatment of the American Cemetery at Brookwood, England, contained in his letter of January 20, 1937, which you transmitted to the Commission on March 26th. Mr. Swartwout's suggestions pertained particularly to the location of the flagpole and the landscape treatment of the cemetery. They were brought to the special attention of the landscape architect member of the Commission, Mr. Paul D. Cret, and when the Commission considered the whole project.

The Commission felt strongly that, as a matter of good taste and international comity, the flagpole in this cemetery should be kept at such a height that it will dominate only the American graves; that it shall not rise above the surrounding trees where it will seem to dominate not only our own dead but also the neighboring graves of the Canadians, the Australians, the New Zealanders, and other constituent parts of the British Empire. The Commission therefore recommends that the flagpole be not more than 50 feet in height and that it be placed at the entrance of the long axis, indicated by cross-marks on the enclosed print. On this matter the Commission are unanimous and, within the limits of their authority, are insistent.

Mr. Swartwout has misinterpreted the Commission's suggestion as to informal planting. The Commission do not wish to see 'winding paths through irregular plantings and a naturalistic setting'. What is to be avoided is making the formal treatment over-fussy, which would be out of harmony with the simplicity of the surroundings, and especially with the quiet British national cemetery separated from the American only by a hedge of rhododendron. A single grass plot along both the major and the minor axis, which could be well defined by the four blocks of white crosses, should be the principal formal treatment. Flowers are essential to such a plot but should be subordinated, not accessible but in retrospect. They should be unobtrusive in texture and color and should produce quiet harmony rather than spectacular effects. It is also the suggestion to the Commission that the treatment about the edges of the grass be not stone lines of sterling stone but quiet turned flagging of a regular jointing set flush with the grass. The Commission hope to see this treatment replace the paths elsewhere, especially at the crossing of the axis. An excellent example of this quieter and more artistic treatment may be seen in Canterbury at the memorial to the South Africans.

Mr. Swartwout's argument for a semi-circle of trees at the end of the long axis back of the chapel is the first that would lead us to believe a definite boxing in of the chapel and that we would not have the formal treatment 'fade out' immediately at that point. The Commission like to create a semi-circular recess of foliage at the end of the axis, even more strongly defined and with fewer openings than a hedge, as such could possibly accomplish. The trees would have to be very large.

Dear Miss Price:

[illegible] tree growth, especially [illegible], [illegible] serving a useful purpose [illegible] [illegible] equal to any new hedge could be made; and it does, by [illegible], at [illegible], a green wall of [illegible] vision beyond, [illegible] compel it to [illegible] if so wanted, can be made. Moreover it would be of a [illegible] of the woods-backing and not a mere hedge set in front the woods-backing of the cemetery. Something of this kind, but under different circumstances, may be seen at Wilton Place, not so many miles distant from Brookwood.

Mr. Greenleaf does not regard it difficult to grow evergreen trees of fair size at Brookwood. The Superintendent of the main cemetery, at the time the original plan for Brookwood was made on the ground by members of the Commission of Fine Arts, pointed out vigorous fine evergreens and blocks of pine trees of considerable height where there had been, a generation ago when the big cemetery was developed, nothing but open farm land. Climatic conditions for evergreens are of the best in Surrey and Kent, and the Commission anticipate great results from intelligent planting and care. It is to be remembered that, in designing our national cemeteries, we are not planning for the next five years only, but for the years to come.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Major W. H. Price, Secretary,
The American Battle Monuments Commission,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit F

EXHIBIT G

COPY

April 6, 1937.

Dear Mr. Schaneman:

Your letter of April 1st, requesting the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts as to the proposed transfer of certain land along Water Street to the Pennsylvania Railroad for additional trackage, has been carefully considered.

The proposed widening of the railroad crossing over Water Street involves increasing the length of a dark and obscured passageway into that thoroughfare and to some extent affects the exit from Potomac Park, which is already congested. These two openings now have a brutal treatment and the Commission suggest that the Railroad Authorities and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission present a study for park entrances without obstructions in the roadway. When plans for such entrances have been submitted, the Commission will be pleased to consider further what lands can possibly be surrendered in order to give an effective railway service.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Hon. Carl C. Schaneman,
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT G.

MAJOR GENERAL EDGAR JADWIN
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY, CHAIRMAN
LT. COL. J. FRANKLIN BELL
ENGINEER COMMISSIONER, D. C., VICE CHAIRMAN
MR. STEPHEN T. MATHER
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MR. W. B. GREELEY
CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE
SEN. ARTHUR CAPPER
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, UNITED STATES SENATE
REP. FREDERICK N. ZIHLMAN
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

EIGHTEENTH AND B STREETS

WASHINGTON

MR. FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED
OF BROOKLINE, MASS.
MR. FREDERIC A. DELANO
OF WASHINGTON, D. C.
MR. J. C. NICHOLS
OF KANSAS CITY, MO.
MR. MILTON B. MEDARY, JR.
OF PHILADELPHIA, PA.
MAJOR U. S. GRANT, 3D.
DIRECTOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC PARKS OF NATIONAL CAPITAL, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
APR 20 1927
NOTED

April 19, 1927.

Mr. Charles Moore, Chairman,
Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Dept. Bldg.,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Moore:

In reply to your letter of 6th inst. and to the verbal request of your Secretary, Mr. Caemmerer, as to the attitude of this Commission towards the sale by the Treasury Department to the Pennsylvania Railroad of the property between Water Street and the Washington Channel, once purchased for a power plant, the Commission as a whole has not had an opportunity to act on the matter. However, it has been submitted to the Coordinating Committee for study, and there is no reason to suppose that the Commission would not concur in the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee.

The Railroad desires turnover of this area in order to permit construction of additional tracks, as indicated, on an extension of their earth fill. It is quite feasible to reduce this area by the construction of a retaining wall to support the new tracks.

The Coordinating Committee recommends

(a) That only such area be turned over to the Railroad as necessary to permit construction of a retaining wall instead of a slope.

(b) That no posts be permitted in the roadway of Water Street in connection with the new crossing, but that the Railroad be required to span the full width of the present street between abutments, which is 79'.

(c) That the vertical clearance of the new crossing be at least equal to the clearance of the present crossing.

While the proposed development of the Washington Channel waterfront has not as yet been approved in its entirety, the portion of it which contemplates a connection from East Potomac Park to Water Street south of the railway does, I believe, meet with general approval. For cars coming from East Potomac Park to Water Street and turning west, the proposed sloping fill would seriously interfere with the view, and the retaining wall would be much more desirable. It is desirable also to free Water Street from obstructions.

Sincerely yours,

U. S. Grant 3d.
Executive Officer.

2 Incls.

COPY

April 5, 1927.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Confirming the conversation with you recently, the Commission of Fine Arts respectfully submits:

1. The purpose of Congress, as shown in the debates for the past 25 years or more, has been not only to clean up the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue but also to develop between that Avenue and the Mall a series of notable buildings which, while housing Government activities, shall represent the dignity and the power of the Nation. It was with this end in view that Congress provided, in legislating for a Memorial Bridge, a great thoroughfare to begin at the Capitol itself and extend through the City of Washington to the Potomac and the Lincoln Memorial.

Another important step has been taken by the purchase of the grounds between the Capitol and the Union Station and provision for a broad avenue connecting those grounds with Pennsylvania Avenue.

All of this legislation involves the virtual extension of the Mall to Pennsylvania Avenue, so that the great central composition of Washington shall have a harmonious treatment throughout the entire area. This purpose is to be subserved by the erection between Pennsylvania Avenue and B Street of buildings of the highest possible character. This purpose can be carried out adequately and successfully by considering the landscape as well as the architecture. Nobility in buildings involves due relation to the spaces they dominate.

2. Your own ideas, expressed at the discussions of the general character of the buildings to be erected, indicate that you have this treatment in mind. The question then is as to how this purpose, so clearly expressed by Congress, representing the Legislative Department, and you as the representative of the Executive Department of the Government, shall be attained.

3. It has always been recognized that the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue, at least so far as Seventh Street, cannot now be changed in its essential character as a space to be occupied by privately owned buildings. In the nature of things the architecture of these buildings will continue to be heterogeneous. It may be expected, however, that ultimately all of this area will be built up to the height established. The south side of the Avenue, on the other hand, requires a special treatment so as to differentiate it from the north side. In the opinion of the Commission of Fine Arts the line of Pennsylvania Avenue on the south side should clearly mark the diagonal of the Avenue. This can best be attained by heavy planting of large trees, giving the effect of continuity so far down as Seventh Street. There the Mall treatment asserts itself. From Seventh to Third Street the buildings will front both Avenue and Mall. In this connection this Commission recommends that the services of a landscape architect be secured to assist in the plan for the Triangle.

4. The Commission of Fine Arts recommends that there be a strong end to Pennsylvania Avenue at Fifteenth Street. The dignity of the Avenue requires some adequate demonstration at this point. This demonstration should not be undertaken in a feeble manner but should be studied as one of the great features of the city. Today this space is congested to a high degree, and with the development of B Street as the great thoroughfare from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial and the Memorial Bridge, into which city streets are feeders, this congestion will increase unless adequate attention

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2. Your own ideas, expressed at the discussions of the general character of the buildings to be erected, indicate that you have this treatment in mind. The question then is as to how this purpose, so clearly expressed by Congress, representing the Legislative Department, and you as the representative of the Executive Department of the Government, shall be attained.

3. It has always been recognized that the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue, at least so far as Seventh Street, cannot now be changed in its essential character as a space to be occupied by private, owned residences. In the nature of things the architecture of these buildings will continue to be heterogeneous. It may be expected, however, that ultimately all of this area will be built up to the height established. The north side of the avenue, on the other hand, replaces a special treatment so as to differentiate it from the north side. In the opinion of the Commission of Fine Arts the line of Pennsylvania Avenue should be straight. This can best be attained by the disposal of the avenue. This can best be attained by [illegible] of large trees, giving the effect of continuity to the [illegible]. There the Mall treatment ceases itself. [illegible] buildings will front upon avenue and Mall. In this connection we recommend that the services of a landscape architect be employed to assist in the plan for the Triangle.

4. The question of the site recommended that there be a [illegible] to Pennsylvania Avenue at Eighth Street. [illegible] requires some adequate demonstration at this point. This demonstration should not be unreasonable in [illegible] of the great importance of the site. Owing this upon it [illegible] degree, on with the development of a street on the [illegible] the Capitol to the Mall and the Memorial Bridge, [illegible] streets and Federal, this connection will increase [illegible]

be given to the distribution of traffic at this point.

In connection with this development the Commission of Fine Arts suggests that the street cars be removed altogether from Fifteenth Street and that the route shall be from Pennsylvania Avenue by Fourteenth Street to New York Avenue.

5. In regard to the treatment of the triangle itself, east and west streets may be disregarded as open streets. Provision for the necessary passage of vehicles and pedestrians may be secured, as in the case of the Louvre and other buildings in Paris, by carrying passages through the buildings themselves. This will enable buildings to be created of a size commensurate with the dignity of the Government and its functions. These buildings would have ample open courts treated so as to give two fronts to the buildings,- and interior front and an exterior front. The courts should not be used for the parking of automobiles as is now customary in public building courts, or for the erection of subordinate structures, which disturb the serenity of the courts themselves. On the contrary, the landscape treatment should be developed in high degree.

Certain north and south streets must be carried from Pennsylvania Avenue through the knoll; for example, Fourteenth Street, Twelfth Street, and Ninth Street. Within the large areas so created opportunities are given for the development of courts such as those of the Palais Royal in Paris, the Louvre, and other monumental structures of that city.

6. The plans for the new public buildings have as yet not been submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts, with the exception of the central portion of the building for the Department of Agriculture, the plans for which provide for the completion of a building approved by the temporary commission which preceded the creation of the Commission of Fine Arts.

This Commission therefore suggests that pending the passage of the Deficiency Bill the best interests of all concerned will be subserved by the consideration of a general plan for the treatment of the entire area from Third Street to Fifteenth Street. This will include the establishment of the fundamental principles above outlined.

7. The Commission of Fine Arts respectfully suggests that the area between B Street, Pennsylvania Avenue, Fourteenth Street and Fifteenth Street, be treated as a unit; and that there be no separation along D Street of the building intended for the Department of Justice and the building intended for the Department of Commerce, but that necessary passage ways shall be provided through the single building to occupy that entire area.

8. The Commission of Fine Arts calls your attention to the fact that under the plan herein outlined not only will the dignity of the buildings be promoted, but also a great economy of space will result by reason of the fact that the upper floors will be continuous and the various government activities can have adequate expansion without being confined within the narrow limits imposed by separate buildings of comparatively small size. In this way unequal expansion of the various activities of the government can be provided for. Such expansion will not be possible if the buildings are in small units. Moreover, there will be economy in reducing the number of facades, which should have special treatment of a high class. In creating greater frontages it will be possible to attain simplicity, which is after all the fundamental essential of a dignified structure.

9. The Commission of Fine Arts have prepared sketch plans for such a treatment as is herein suggested, and the Commission will be pleased to discuss these plans with the representatives of the Treasury Department.

For the Commission: Very respectfully, yours,

Hon. Andrew W. Mellon, Exhibit H Charles Moore,
Secretary of the Treasury. Chairman.

MEMORANDUM

MALL AND MONUMENT GARDEN

Charles W. Eliot 2nd, City Planner

February 1927.

In pursuance of the recommendations contained in a memorandum submitted to the Commission at the December Meeting, studies have been prepared. (1) "to provide for carrying the Mall Roadways over 12th and 14th Streets" and (2) "for curving roadway connections from the Mall Drives at 16th Street to B Street North and to a corresponding Street on the south".

1. Mall Drives over 12th and 14th Streets. Through the assistance of Mr. Payne and others in Mr. Clark's office an estimate of grading has been made, based on the grades shown on the accompanying sketch plan. These estimates show a net fill of 342,285.5 cu. yds. if future buildings on the Mall are not considered and a net fill of 103,778. cu. yds. if the cellar excavations for the possible buildings shown hatched on the plan are considered.

The office of the Supervising Architect has given us an approximate estimate that the immediate building program will call for the disposal of approximately 465,000 cu. yds.

The excavations necessary to put 12th and 14th Streets at the new proposed grades come to 51,765 cu. yds. The change will require relaying sewers under 12th and 14th Streets and relaying car tracks on 14th Street. The cost of grade separation also includes an item for 4 or 8 bridges according as to whether or not the central drives are carried across these streets. It is suggested that the bridges on the central drives be omitted in the initial development of the Mall with the expectation that ultimately bridges with the full width of the grass panel would be constructed.

Preliminary Estimate

1.	Cut for 12th and 14th Streets 51,765 cu. yds. @ 1.00 -	$51,765
2.	Laying sewer, water, Tel. & Tel. & Power lines -	51,558
3.	Relaying tracks	96,000
4.	Four Bridges: 50 ft. wide (bet.balustrades)*	
	2 - 70 ft. long	- 25,000
	2 - 60 ft. long	- 22,000
5.	Walls on each side of 12th & 14th streets	- 45,370
		$ 291,693

* including 15' sidewalk

Recommendation.

1. That, subject to approval by the Commission of Fine Arts, plans for the development of the Mall should show the Mall Drives carried over 12th and 14th Streets.

2. That the Public Buildings Commission be encouraged to use the Mall for the disposition of material excavated for new buildings in conformity with the grades shown on the above mentioned plans as approved by the Commission of Fine Arts.

II. Roadway Connections around Monument Garden

The accompanying plan by Mr. Payne shows roadways around the Monument Garden connecting with the outer drives of the Mall and with a direct cross-over at grade at 15th Street. A change in the plan of the Monument Garden allows the introduction of a curve with inside radius of 80 feet to turn the roadways to run north or south, and of a second curve with inside radius of 110 feet to turn them westward again. The changes in the plan of the Garden do not affect the appearance of the central open area, but reduce the extent of the wooded surroundings.

This study has revealed a number of problems in the design of the garden itself which should be studied at an early date if the idea of presenting the garden as a "birthday present" to Washington in 1932 is to be carried out. No recommendation concerning the roadways around the Garden can properly be made without further architectural and engineering study of the design of the Garden.

SUMMARIZED ESTIMATE OF GRADING PLAN
For Portion of the Mall (between B St. N., B St. S., 15th St. and Center Line extended of New National Museum across Mall.)

I. Estimate regardless of proposed buildings.

II. Estimate figuring proposed buildings.

(Estimate based on Mall Survey shown on plan J-35-52)

I. ESTIMATE REGARDLESS OF PROPOSED BUILDINGS.

Gross Cut	129,266.4
Gross Fill	471,552.0
Net Fill	342,285.6 cu. yds.

II. ESTIMATE FIGURING PROPOSED BUILDINGS.

Gross Cut - item as above -		129,266.4
	Additional for Buildings	182,915.0
	Total -	312,181.4 cu.yds.

Gross Fill - item as above -		471,552.0
Less amount Obviated		- 55,587.0
		415,965.0 cu.yds.

Net Fill . . . . . 103,778.6 cu.yds.

Chas. W. Eliot 2nd
City Planner

Irving W. Payne,
LandscapeArchitect.

EXHIBIT I

COPY

April 1d, 1927.

Dear Colonel Grant:

Since the discussion of Meridian Hill Park matters before the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and in view of the very large expenditures that must be made in order to put that park in condition, it has seemed best to go over the plans carefully in order to see how the appropriations made by Congress can be spent most advantageously. As the Commission understand the wording of the appropriation for the coming year, we conceive that you have about $90,000 to spend on walls, entrances and grading. A preliminary survey suggested to the Commission that the entrance leading from Sixteenth Street to the Terrace might be eliminated without detriment, and indeed with positive advantage to the design. This idea was conveyed to Mr. Charles A. Platt and Mr. William Mitchell Kendall, both of whom were members of the Commission at the time the plan for Meridian Hill Park was under discussion. Mr. Platt and Mr. Kendall made their examinations in the office of Mr. Vitale, who has had charge of the planting in the park. It is the opinion of all three that it will be of advantage to the design of the park to omit this entrance altogether. Mr. Platt calls attention to the fact that no studies have been made to connect the entrance with the Terrace. At this juncture the Commission of Fine Arts inspected first the plans and then the park itself. The members were convinced that it would be a positive advantage to the design of the park to omit this entrance. The distance between the broad entrance on Sixteenth Street leading to the platform and the Buchanan Memorial, in the Lower Garden, together with the two entrances further up Sixteenth Street, provide ample facilities to the public entering the park. The ramp at the corner of Sixteenth and V Streets permits further access. The Commission, therefore, suggest that coincident with the completion of the walls and entrances specified as much money as can be properly extended on grading be so expended with the view to getting the park into presentable shape. This will help to secure the necessary appropriations for the Terrace and the Cascade.

There have been so many changes in the V Street wall and entrances, since the plan now before the Commission of Fine Arts was made, that the Commission would be pleased to have a study of that section of the park submitted for consideration at the meeting the latter part of May.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks
of the National Capital,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT J.

COPY

April 15, 1927.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on April 15, 1927, gave careful consideration to your letter of April 6th and approved the purchase by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to acquire the land as proposed in parcel 244/16 and 243/23, to be a part of the Shepherd Parkway, south of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, for the National Capital Park System.

For the Commission:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d,
Executive and Disbursing Officer,
National Capital Park and Planning Commission,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT K.

[PUBLIC—No. 799—69TH CONGRESS]

[S. 1640]

An Act Authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national arboretum, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized and directed to establish and maintain a national arboretum for purposes of research and education concerning tree and plant life. For the purposes of this Act, (1) the President is authorized to transfer to the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture by Executive order any land which now belongs to the United States within or adjacent to the District of Columbia located along the Anacostia River north of Benning Bridge, and (2) the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized in his discretion to acquire, within the limits of the appropriation authorized by this Act by private purchase, condemnation proceedings, or gift, land so located or other land within or adjacent to the District of Columbia: *Provided*, That the purchase price of any part of said land shall not exceed the full value assessment of such property last made before purchase thereof plus 25 per centum of such assessed value.

SEC. 2. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated a sum not to exceed $300,000, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture for the acquisition of land as specified in section 1. No payment shall be made by the United States for any such land until the title thereto is satisfactory to the Attorney General and is vested in the United States.

SEC. 3. In order to stimulate research and discovery the national arboretum established by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of this Act shall be under competent scientific direction. The arboretum shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture separately from the agricultural, horticultural, and forestry stations of the Department of Agriculture, but it shall be so correlated with them as to bring about the most effective utilization of its facilities and discoveries.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to create an advisory council in relation to the plan and development of the national arboretum to be established under this Act, to include representatives of national organizations interested in the work of the arboretum.

Approved, March 4, 1927.